



State Board of Equalization

News Release

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www.boe.ca.gov

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San Diego County Auto Dealer Sentenced for Grand Theft, Burglary

Sacramento – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announced today that Miguel Guarneros, 34, of Lemon Grove, was sentenced to 300 days of work furlough and ordered to pay \$400,360 in restitution for sales tax he failed to pay. He was sentenced on June 26, 2014, after pleading guilty in San Diego County on May 15, 2014, to felony grand theft and burglary.

Guarneros, the owner and operator of Drive Motors auto dealership in Spring Valley, failed to report at least \$4.9 million in taxable sales, resulting in approximately \$400,360 in unreported sales tax from 2007 through 2011. Drive Motors sold used cars from 2005 to 2011. The BOE's investigation began in 2010 when it was discovered that Guarneros failed to report a large amount of sales.

The case was prosecuted by San Diego County Deputy District Attorney Ben Tao. On the day he pled guilty, Guarneros paid \$90,000 toward his restitution of \$400,360, leaving \$310,360 still owed.

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The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects \$56 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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